

# THE LANCE



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## Food

To the Editor:

Well, it's time for another exercise in food service futility. Once again someone is writing to THE LANCE to protest the poor food, third-rate service and unsanitary conditions of the cafeteria. It is, after all, an old, old song. Everyone knows, for example, that I would walk out of any restaurant where I found old food and napkins crusted on supposedly clean silverware. Unfortunately, due to a contract which I have neither seen nor signed, I can't walk out of this one.

It is also worth noting that for the past three days the soup has been made bearable



only by the fact that I can rarely find a spoon to eat it with. I have been informed, too, by a reliable source, that the french fries at Tuesday's lunch were not really deep-fried by simply held under until they stopped breathing.

I would, however, like to

commend ARA on the variety of meats they offer. I have never seen ground beef abused in so many shapes and sizes.

In closing I should like to offer some helpful hints to cafeteria customers. First, don't grouch at the servers; it isn't their fault. Second, if you see a fly stuck to the icing on a desert item, leave it; it will serve as a warning to those who follow. Finally, when all else fails, go to Pizza Inn.

Goodbye and good luck,  
 Brian Dolge

P.S. I'd also like to see a few words about SAS since, like this letter, it's somewhat confused, and probably useless.

To the Editor:

We would like to express sincere appreciation and thanks to the College Christian Council, Health Sciences Club, Black Student Union, President Perkins, Dean Claytor, Barry Stallings, Tom Jones, Garrett Paul, Michael and Willie Torres, and everyone who came out to play and have fun at the Carnival For Muscular Dystrophy.

Yana Banks  
 Teresa Staley  
 Joey Sherr

## Pyramid

### Power: For Real

BY DAVID CRAFT

Special to THE LANCE

(The author is a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.)

A recent experiment in the pseudoscience of "pyramid power" dealt the UNC physics department and dyed-in-the-wool skeptics a terrible blow. A scaled down version of the Egyptian pyramids preserved a banana slice for 11 days.

The experiment began with an article I wrote for the Sept. 6 issue of the Daily Tar Heel. The story told of strange forces some scientists credited to pyramid-shaped objects. Theorists attach to pyramids a power capable of everything from preserving meat and fruit to improving sex, the article said.

The story told of an experiment in which one-third of a banana could be placed under a pyramid, one-third under a square box and another third in the open. Pyramid power would thus preserve its banana while the other two would become rotten.

Dietrich Schroeder, associate professor of physics, responded with a letter to the editor of the

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## Food Action Needed

Criticism of the food service earlier this year had, we thought, indicated the dissatisfaction of the students, in regard to poor sanitation and poorly prepared food. Apparently that criticism brought only short term results, for today, the food service is not concerned about sanitation and is doing nothing at all about preparing the food in a more appetizing way.

Several incidents best illustrate the sanitation problem. At a meal approximately one week ago, a student had to search through 24 knives to find a clean knife. While most students had grown accustomed to searching through 3 or 4 (which is inexcusable in itself), having to search through 24 is outrageous. It will not be tolerated. The glasses are almost as bad. While some improvement has been made in this area since the beginning of the year, it is evident that a considerable number of students are still "putting peanut butter in their glasses." (This was one of the reasons given by the food service earlier in the year for dirty glasses.) The food service admittedly has an "A" rating from the Health Department, but were the inspector to make another inspection today, the rating would drop to a 'B'.

For those of you wondering about why you must get a clean plate everytime you want seconds, we here it is. The food service feels this cuts down on the amount of germs transferred from spoon to plate and vice versa. So while you are standing in line, waiting for a clean plate, realize, they are doing it for your benefit. We wish the same could be said for the glasses and silverware.

## Being Called Bad By The Bailie Is Like Being Called Ugly By A Frog

When it first appeared, we weren't going to comment. Constructive criticism, we felt, should be noted and then acted upon if it has merit. That action, or the lack of it should be all the response necessary. However, when Jackson Morton chose to follow up his Dialogue criticizing The LANCE's policies with a subjective and misinformed letter to the Biweekly Bailie, it became incumbent upon us to set the record straight.

Jackson first charges that there are "basically four people who control what is printed in The LANCE." In the final analysis, one person, LANCE Editor Michael Greene, controls what is printed each week. This is as it should be. A newspaper cannot be edited by committee, nor can what isn't submitted be "controlled." Jackson continues to bemoan the fact that students are apparently unwilling to contribute their time to the paper. Quite true. But let's carry the argument out to Jackson himself, whose reams of criticism have appeared everywhere but in The LANCE's letter column, and who has not submitted an article all semester while exhorting everyone else to do so.

The next assertion in Jackson's letter is not without its merit either. There are important, exciting events going on at St. Andrews. And we cannot, we frankly admit, cover them all as well as they deserve, due to a number of often overlooked factors, two of which bear mentioning here. The first is space. Four pages will only cover so much. And while there is always room to argue with an editor's choice, that choice must be final. This would also seem to answer the question of including various literary efforts within the context of the paper. While we are extremely proud of St. Andrews' fine literary publications, The LANCE is, quite frankly, established for a different purpose; and that is to print news. It makes no sense to bemoan the absence of enough in-depth coverage of the news while clamoring for more space devoted to endeavors secondary to the paper's main function.

The other frequently neglected factor is time. The LANCE publishes on a regular schedule, and must be put together from scratch each week. This might not be quite so major a consideration if everyone on the staff wasn't also taking a full load of classes and trying to find time for eating and sleeping. This argument, we realize, will sound to many who participate in other facets of campus life like the whining of self-proclaimed martyrs. Not so. The people who staff The LANCE enjoy their work, or they wouldn't be doing it. Nonetheless it gets rather trying to hear the after-dinner critics dispense with hours of

Moving on to the other part of this editorial - the poor preparation of food, we find similar problems. Many of the meals do not contain any nourishment at all, and the few that do, contain very little. Many times the food is under-cooked or over-cooked; we realize this deals considerably with personal tastes but crunchy rice and burnt hamburgers are not in great demand. Recently a student was served a veal patty that had been clearly nibbled on by a mouse and/or rat. When this was reported to the food service they expressed no concern whatsoever as to what the Health Department would say. Another student was rushed to the hospital recently to have his stomach pumped. Some sandwich meats served by the food service was spoiled. This list goes on.

By now, it should be clearly shown that the food service does not have the students' interests at heart. Several of the faculty and staff have questioned why the food service is allowed to serve such "food," after they have eaten there.

We feel that enough time has been given to the food service to adjust to St. Andrews and its people. We encourage the administration to take positive action in contracting another food service which does care and does correct problems. If such action is not taken soon the college may soon have a food service but no students to feed. This is not a threat but a warning that many students have picked up applications to drop food service beginning with winter term and we suspect many more will be issued unless a action is taken to replace the current food service.

work as "dull and occasionally irrelevant."

We now move from the area of "constructive" or "subjective" criticisms (depending on who you agree with) to the more precise confines of misstatement and blatant untruth. Where Jackson got the idea that a budget increase granted The LANCE by the Student Association Senate "under the assumption that the money would be used to expand the paper, perhaps adding a few more pages," and that this money was spent on a series of "Crime and Punishment" articles is a mystery to us. The LANCE requested additional funds to keep pace with the rising costs of newsprint (and raises over \$1,000 each year through its own devices - what other campus publication can make that claim?). Not a single penny of this money has been spent for the "Crime and Justice" series (that's the correct name, by the way). The series is free. We advise Jackson, in the future, to make some attempt to get his information verified before leveling charges that amount to willful deception and fraud. It is regrettable that he has chosen to combine partially valid criticism with such spurious allegations, and equally unfortunate that the Cabinet devoted 25 percent of the Biweekly Bailie to printing them.

The Bailie itself is another sore spot. We recall that this publication was one of the major justifications given by the Cabinet for receiving an appropriation larger than most chartered clubs. "Biweekly" has turned out to be an optimistic appellation at best, unless three times in one semester can be contrived to fulfill the claim. The contents of the latest issue almost make us wish it did

Aside from one short news item, the above-mentioned letter, and a brief committee report, the Bailie contains the menu for the Dinner-Dance, two semi-ads, one incorrect date, three incorrect names, and a whimsically inane something from the Vice-President of the Student Association, who may know how to keep his sanity, but hasn't called enough Senate meetings to record on the fingers of one hand. Applying Jackson's standards this is "inexcusable." Normally we would not feel a "competing" publication proper subject for comment in this column, but the magnitude of this folly paid for by the Student Association, is to great to allow it to pass unnoted. We urge the Senate to make an active inquiry into why and how the Cabinet is spending so much money to print redundancies, misinformation, and errors so infrequently.

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